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The same decree gives the agency unlimited access to "the resources that are necessary for its financing" and allows it duty-free imports of equipment and accessories, presumably for interrogation and investigation.

Its agents almost always wear civilian clothes, rarely display identification documents and drive in unmarked cars or refrigerated meat trucks imported by the Allende Government's Public Development Corporation. Its interrogation centers include army garrisons as well as former private properties, the best known of which is Villa Grimaldi, a one-time discotheque on the outskirts of Santiago.

Chile Gives Free Rein to Secret Police

By JONATHAN KANDELL
Special to The New York Times

SANTIAGO, Chile, May 5—After 20 months in power Chile's military junta shows few signs of dismantling the vast apparatus of political repression created to "extirpate the Marxist cancer."

The military took over when the country was bitterly polarized between an anti-Marxist majority and a leftist minority, and rapidly drifting toward economic chaos and a possible civil war. But from its beginning the junta has chosen to treat the followers of the late President Salvador Allende Gossens as a vanquished enemy capable at any time of posing a strong terrorist threat.

According to Government estimates more than 41,000 people — one of every 250 Chileans — have been detained at least temporarily for political reasons.

Church sources who have concerned themselves with political prisoners believe that the figure is closer to 95,000, one of every 100. Both the Government and its domestic critics appear agreed that there are still 5,000 people in prison camps for political reasons.

While vast numbers of people remain in detention in the aftermath of the coup that toppled President Allende in 1973, the arrests and charges of torture have declined to recent months.

However, virtually all international human-rights organizations, including the United Nations Human Rights Commission and the Organization of American States, have reported a continuation of severe violations of human rights in Chile. In the past year, in an unbroken sequence, the Western European nations that are among Chile's largest creditors refused to consider the political prisoners on their lists of human rights violations.

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Last week President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte unveiled a new series of rules to prevent "abuses of power that the Government has never approved." They call for the punishment of torturers and require that new detainees be released within five days or turned over to the courts. Intelligence services must inform a detainee's nearest relatives within 48 hours of his arrest.

The junta's domestic critics remain skeptical because scores are still arrested every week and allegations of torture continue to make their way into public records.

On March 19 Luis Guillermo Núñez, one of Chile's best-known painters, was invited to exhibit a series of his works at the French-Chilean Institute of Culture. About 500 people turned up at the opening exhibit of his abstracts, on such themes as social conventions, alienation and loss of freedom.

Despite the fact that the show was partly sponsored by the French Embassy, it was quickly closed by the secret police. The next day Mr. Núñez was arrested at home by secret policemen who, according to the neighbors, arrived in a small pickup truck. His relatives lodged an appeal for a writ of habeas corpus. But he has not been heard from.

Last month Juan Sepúlveda Arancibia, 47-year-old owner of an auto repair shop, was arrested with two of his sons by police detectives who were looking for a third son, Alejandro, allegedly a member of an extreme left-wing organization.

"A detective named Igor Aranda comes every day to my home," said Mr. Sepúlveda, who in a sworn statement to the Santiago Court of Appeals on Sunday said that they were looking for his son Alejandro, who he has not heard from, and he warned us that he better turn him in because he better to have our son instead of this."

The court later as Mr. Sepúlveda was arrested and his sons were released.

The secret police apparatus has grown to such a degree that it has become a parallel government, in the view of human-rights lawyers and concerned clergymen. There are five intelligence services, with one or two of them rapidly gaining more power than the rest. A network of informers has expanded throughout the shantytowns, factories, schools

and universities. Applicants to public agencies are often screened by the intelligence services.

The agents are able to ignore standards of conduct set by the Government for other officials and ordinary citizens. Occasionally, an intelligence official's eccentric reputation spreads beyond the confines of clandestine interrogation centers.

This is true of Comdr. Edgar Ceballos, a leader of air force intelligence, a burly man in his early forties who has reportedly often taken a personal hand in torture.

"With leftist military officers who were detained he was a beast and worked them over with an uncontrolled animal fury," said a man well-acquainted with several of the victims.

With civilian suspects, some of them left-wing extremists, he has mixed severe torture with personal courtesies, it is

said. He has invited some to snacks at Nico's, a well-known pizzeria in an upper-class neighborhood. Sometimes he arranges rendezvous for prisoners with their woman friends in apartments rented by air force intelligence. After a vacation on Easter Island he brought back key chains as gifts for favorite prisoners.

Recently he has had a running battle with a woman, called "the lady," who is the head of the secret police. Comdr. Ceballos has been told to stop her from interfering with the work of the secret police.

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While vast numbers of people passed through detention in the aftermath of the coup that toppled President Allende in 1973, the arrests and charges of torture have declined in recent months. None-

theless, virtually all international human-rights organizations, including the United Nations and the Organization of American States, have reported systematic and gross violations after repeated visits to Chile.

Earlier this year, in an unprecedented move, the Western European nations that are among Chile's largest creditors refused to consider renegotiating payments on her foreign debt until progress had been made in human rights.

Mr. Allende and his supporters have distributed their self-designated image as victims of a military campaign that has inflicted the highest international condemnation and the most

media, universities and governmental circles in Western countries.

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"A detective named Igor Allende came every day to my home," said Mr. Segovia. "He was a very nice man, but the Santiago Court of Appeals said he was a member of the organization." "On Sunday he told me they were looking for my son Alejandro, who we have not heard from. And he wanted us to do better than him in because it is better to have one dead son instead of three."

The court records show that Mr. Segovia was beaten and held in a prison cell for 10 days. He was then released on the condition that he would not leave the country.

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The secret police apparatus has grown to such a degree that it has become a parallel government, in the view of human-rights lawyers and concerned clergymen. There are five intelligence services, with one or two of them rapidly gaining more power than the rest. A network of informers has expanded throughout the shantytowns, factories, schools

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Recently he has had a running battle with another agency, called National Intelligence Headquarters, which has emerged as the most powerful of the intelligence services. Commander Ceballos has refused to reveal the names of prisoners who are held in his personal custody in an effort to keep them from the organization's files.

There is Robin Hood in the head of the organization, a man who is known to the prisoners as "the Robin Hood of the secret police."

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